

Jed 499

CLASSIFICATION SECRETCOUNTRY East Germany

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TOPIC Oranienburg Airfield

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EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

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DATE OF CONTENT                      25X1DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 19 November 1953REFERENCES                      25X1PAGES 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     

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REMARKS                     

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1. In September and early October 1953, the following number of sheets were turned in to a laundry in Oranienburg by the air force officers hotel and the quartering building for air force personnel respectively:

Dates in September:					Date in October:
1	7	14	21	28	5
34	44	29	29	22	47
290	273	279	282	273	290

An air force officer announced that major arrivals were expected in the air force quartering buildings of the Weisse Stadt Settlement in Oranienburg.

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2. During the first half of October, the area between the north end of the runway and the fence around the field was being plowed and rolled. Between 5 and 9 October, conferences were held daily at Wilhelminenhof. East of Wilhelminenhof, next to the bend in the fence, construction work was being done on a brick building, 3 x 4 meters large. The building was about 3 meters high as of 13 October. Construction work was under way on a concrete shaft designed to house cables in the southeastern corner of the field, inside of the fence. The shaft projected about 20 centimeters above the surface of the ground and was covered by an iron lid. In the afternoon of 12 October, four men were working on the end of a cable, which was about 5 centimeters in diameter.
3. In the fuel dump, fuel containers were being installed in pits lined by concrete walls; the containers projected beyond the walls by about 20 centimeters.

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4. In the Weisse Stadt Settlement, Building No 49 has again been occupied by air force soldiers since 6 October. Repair work was being done on the iron gate near Building No 21. The Ernst Thaelmann Strasse was blocked on 3 October and has been guarded since. About 25 trucks have been parked in Garage No 35 since the beginning of October.

5. In the first half of October, 48 fuel containers were being installed at the field. The pits in which the containers lay in groups of twos had concrete walls, about 1 meter thick. Around mid-October, canals were being concreted between the individual pits. In these canals connecting tubes were to be laid. North of the fuel pits, construction work was under way on a brick building, 15 x 25 meters, probably a pumping house.

6. Construction work was started on a transformer house about 100 meters west of Velten bridge. A ditch, probably for the laying of cables, was being excavated and was about 400 meters long from the transformer house to the north. This ditch was to lead as far as the pumping house in the fuel dump and as far as the hangar, a surveyor stated. The hangar had been renovated and its annex was being provided with window panes. The skylight was being newly boarded up.

7. The excavating of cable ditches at the field continued up to 15 October. All fuel containers were installed in the fuel dump by that date. No change was observed with regards to the occupation of the field.

8. The airfield was still unoccupied up to 15 October. The soil was being plowed in the northwestern corner of the field where several tractors were observed. Construction work was being done on a building north of the fuel dump. The main gate was guarded by a civilian, while the bridge was guarded by two VP soldiers.

9. In the Weisse Stadt Settlement, the board fence was being extended from Building No 35 beyond the Ernst Thaelmann Strasse. Briquettes were being unloaded on 14 and 15 October.

10. In early October, clearing work was being done at the field and the two cement sheds were removed. Work was under way on the fuel dump and on the approach roads to this dump. 60 to 70 soldiers wearing red-bordered black epaulets, who trucked crushed stones and chippings to the Weisse Stadt Settlement.<sup>2</sup>

11. During conferences mention was made that one million eastmarks had been allotted for air force barracks installations which were to be built, either in the Weisse Stadt or at Oranienburg airfield during the first quarter of 1954. Construction work allegedly would be carried out by the special construction bureau Eberswalde of the Oranienburg construction office since the Soviets formerly had not been satisfied by the work of the Bauunion Leipzig.<sup>3</sup>

12. No aircraft were stationed at the field on 13 October. A civilian guard was posted at the approach road to the field. Work was still being done on the field area. On the northern edge of the field, furniture and other equipment were being loaded on a boxcar. Truck moved through the entrance gate to the field.<sup>2</sup>

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Comment. The statement on the Weisse Stadt Settlement and Oranienburg airfield supplement previous information. A map of the Weisse Stadt Settlement was forwarded previously.

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3.

Comment. No detailed information has been received so far on the intended construction of buildings during the first quarter of 1954.

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